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Creating an environment at the national and international level, conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

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Statement

Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre (JTRC) has been reaching out since the seventies to marginalized and economically under privileged people, living in Rural Areas, Tribal Areas and remote Areas. Hence, its efforts in Socio-Economic Development in such areas have always included eradication of poverty and hunger, for the past three decades. Accordingly, JTRC has included the process of education (Formal and Non-Formal), Capacity Building and Training in income generation and Socio-Economic Initiatives, Skill Development and Career Education for Youth and Women, as well as creating linkages for Traditional Craftsmen, Capacitated Volunteers and other Employable and Self-Employable Youth, Women and Men in such remote Areas, with Financial Institutions, Marketing Infrastructure as well as Skilled Management of Small Self-Employment Units, known as Mahila Mandals, Youth Forums, Self-Help Groups and Civil Society alternatives.

JTRC has been working for the development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes and the Economically Marginalized; through its 11 branches and about 30 Project Offices in India in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and the North Eastern Himalayan States of Assam, Arrunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram and Sikkim. Since its inception in 1979; JTRC has worked with 55 lakh ST/SC people and about 5 lakh children through its Research and Evaluation Division, Training and Capacity Building Division, Sustainable Development Division and Communication Publication Division.

JTRC has worked in a big way with Child Workers for the past two decades. The social inequality of child labour has continued as an aftermath of factors like colonization, Agricultural Economy with undefined land holding system resulting in higher number of landless workers, lack of developing base line economic structure for the uneducated and semi-educated masses living in the Rural, remote areas. Unequal distribution of resources and capital assets, redundant or non-functioning capacity building and training infrastructure; as well as absence of credit and marketing linkages in such countries. Working children, mainly come under the unorganized system of contract labour, free labour, low wages in the Agriculture sector, family business and land holdings as well as small business units in economically vulnerable remote areas.

JTRC has taken this cause in a big way, by organizing Educational and Economic Rehabilitation Projects for child workers, street children, Rag-Picker Children and Bonded Child Labour through Non-Formal Education, Mainstreaming, and Support Service to avoid dropouts and skill development as well as career education. JTRC has also conducted regular dialogues through community programmes, Out Reach Area discussions, Seminars, Workshops and Conferences.

Vision and Future Plan:

JTRC would like to add alternative income generation, Entrepreneurship Development, Skill Development Technical Education etc. and a strong Employment/Self-Employment information and placement infrastructure to this effort.